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**MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS UP 7%**

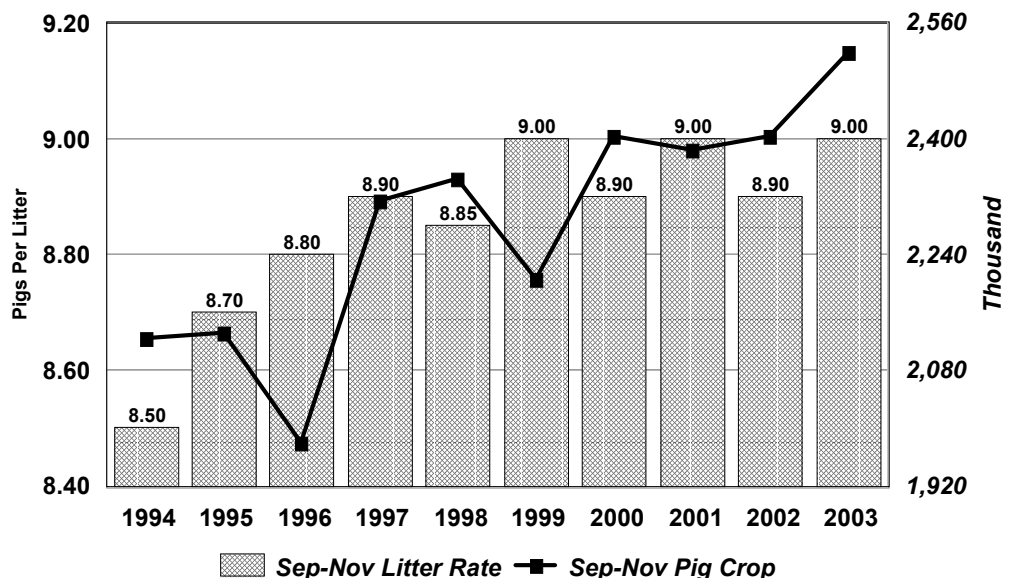
Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6,400,000 hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, up 7% from a year earlier and unchanged from the revised September 1, 2003 figure, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is a record inventory for any quarter. Of these, 600,000 were breeding hogs, up 3% from a year earlier and 5,800,000 were market hogs and pigs, up 7% from a year ago.

Market hogs in the under 60 pound weight group were up 5% from last year. Those in the 60-119 pound weight group were up 7%. Hog numbers in the 120-179 pound group were up 11%, while the 180+ pound group were up 8% from a year ago.

**September-November Pig Crop  
and Pigs Per Litter  
Minnesota 1994-2003**

**STATE PIG CROP UP 5%**

Minnesota's September-November 2003 pig crop totaled 2,520,000 head, up 5% from a year earlier and up 5% from the June-August 2003 pig crop. This is a record pig crop for any quarter. The 280,000 sows that farrowed averaged 9.00 pigs per litter, up from the litter rate of 8.90 a year ago.

**DECEMBER 2003-FEBRUARY 2004 and MARCH-MAY 2004 INTENTIONS**

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 270,000 sows during the December 2003-February 2004 quarter. If realized this would be up 2% from last year. Producers intend to farrow 275,000 sows during the March-May 2004 quarter. If realized, this would be down 2% from the previous year.

**Special Note**

The operations-related estimates that are traditionally included were not included in this December 2003 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report to allow a more complete analysis of the estimates in consideration of the 2002 Census of Agriculture data. These operation estimates will be combined with cattle, sheep, and dairy operations into a single Livestock Operations report that will be published in Spring 2004. Beginning December 2004, all annual livestock operation estimates, farm numbers, and land in farms will be combined into a new single report released annually. These operation-related estimates will no longer be published in the individual commodity reports.

*(See back page for U.S. highlights)*

## U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

**U.S. inventory** of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

**Breeding inventory**, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

**The September - November 2003 U.S. pig crop**, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September - November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S. hog producers** intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2003 - February 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003, but 1 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for March - May 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

### Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2002 through September 2003 were reviewed using final pig crop official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of less than one-half percent were made to the March 2003 total inventory, and one percent to the June 2003 and September 2003 total inventories. An adjustment of less than one-half percent was made to the December 2002 - February 2003 pig crop and a two percent adjustment was made to the March - May 2003 pig crop.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,  
United States, December-November 2002-2003<sup>1/2/</sup>**

| Month            | Sows Farrowing |            | Pigs per Litter |        | Pig Crop   |            |
|------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|--------|------------|------------|
|                  | 2002           | 2003       | 2002            | 2003   | 2002       | 2003       |
|                  | 1,000 Head     | 1,000 Head | Number          | Number | 1,000 Head | 1,000 Head |
| Dec <sup>1</sup> | 923            | 908        | 8.66            | 8.75   | 7,994      | 7,943      |
| Jan              | 946            | 930        | 8.73            | 8.82   | 8,257      | 8,205      |
| Feb              | 967            | 927        | 8.83            | 8.86   | 8,543      | 8,211      |
| Mar              | 978            | 938        | 8.80            | 8.85   | 8,608      | 8,301      |
| Apr              | 983            | 968        | 8.85            | 8.88   | 8,700      | 8,596      |
| May              | 982            | 975        | 8.81            | 8.91   | 8,651      | 8,686      |
| Jun              | 960            | 936        | 8.89            | 8.91   | 8,537      | 8,341      |
| Jul              | 968            | 946        | 8.89            | 8.90   | 8,609      | 8,422      |
| Aug              | 959            | 943        | 8.92            | 8.89   | 8,554      | 8,387      |
| Sep              | 951            | 962        | 8.85            | 8.91   | 8,416      | 8,574      |
| Oct              | 940            | 950        | 8.83            | 8.93   | 8,300      | 8,486      |
| Nov              | 926            | 924        | 8.83            | 8.93   | 8,176      | 8,254      |
| Total            | 11,483         | 11,306     | 8.83            | 8.88   | 101,344    | 100,406    |

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.

<sup>2</sup> Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.